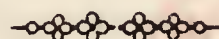


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HOWDEN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer
of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 31st, 1945



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HOWDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Howden
Rural District Council.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit my Annual Report for the year ending
December 31st, 1945.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

- 1—Area (in acres) 69,963.
- 2—Estimate of the average population of the area during
1945—10,085.
- 3—Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1945, accord-
ing to Rate Books—3,383.
- 4—Rateable Value—£36,822.
- 5—Sum represented by a Penny Rate—142.

The chief industry throughout the District is Agriculture ;
other employment being provided by the Flax Mill, Ouse
Chemical Works, the Creosote Works, Brickyards, Railways
and Market Gardening.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

A part-time Medical Officer of Health, who acts as Medical
Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital.

A full-time Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor, with
certificates A.R.San.I. and M.S.I.A.

A Matron and two Fever trained Nurses at the Isolation
Hospital.

VITAL STATISTICS.

			M.	F.	Total.
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	77	88	165
Illegitimate	...	...	15	7	22
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total	...	92	95	187
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Still Births—all Legitimate	...	...	3	3	6
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate for the Howden Rural District per 1,000 population—18·6.

Birth Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population—16·1.

Percentage of Still Births to Total Births—3·0%.

DEATHS.

			M.	F.	Total.
Total Deaths for 1945	...	...	69	77	146
Death Rate in the Howden Rural District for 1,000 population—14·6.					
Death Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population—11·4.					

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis—0.

Deaths from other Puerperal Causes—1.

Maternal Mortality in the Howden Rural District per 1,000 Births—5·2.

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales per 1,000 Births—1·79.

INFANT MORTALITY.

			M.	F.	Total.
Deaths of Children under 1 year of age in the Howden Rural District	...	...	8	3	11

One of these was Illegitimate.

Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Births—48·1.

Infant Death Rate for England and Wales—46.

CAUSE OF DEATHS.

Whooping Cough—2.
 Tuberculosis—7.
 Cancer—24.
 Diabetes—4.
 Apoplexy—10.
 Heart and Circulating Disease—43.
 Respiratory Diseases—12.
 Appendicitis—1.
 Nephritis—5.
 Digestive Diseases—5.
 Accidents—6.

CONCLUSIONS.

There is a slight fall in the number of Births in the Rural Area, and a slight rise of 5 Deaths during the year.
 The Infant Death Rate is about the average for the country, but is a little high.
 There was, unfortunately, one Maternal Death from the 193 Confinements in the Area.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Examinations of Clinical Material are carried out at the Hull Royal Infirmary, and at Beverley Base Hospital.
 The use which is made of these facilities is rapidly increasing.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

During 1945 the following Immunisations of children took place :—

Children over 5 years of age	...	...	...	...	12
Children under 5 years of age	...	...	...	...	179
Total					191

This is very satisfactory, as the number of Births averages about 185 per year.

I cannot stress too much the necessity of keeping up this high standard.

Two facts are worth recording :—

- 1—There has been only one child with Diphtheria during the past 18 months.
- 2—No Immunised child has died from Diphtheria in the Howden Rural Area during the past 5 years.

MATERNITY.

County Maternity Nurses are available in all parts of the Area, and the Howden Institution has provided an excellent Maternity Department, where 84 Births took place in 1945. The County Maternity Nurses and the Howden Institution provide a good Ante-Natal Service, with the co-operation of the Doctors.

In view of the threatened closure of the Howden Institution, the necessity for a County Maternity Home in the Area becomes more acute.

WATER.

There is an adequate Water Supply for the whole Rural Area from Goole and Newbald.

Tests of Water were made in 1945, and the Bacteriological Result was very satisfactory.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. — An Ambulance for the conveyance of patients to hospital is available at Beverley. Ambulances for their own cases are kept at the Isolation Hospital, and the Goole Bartholemew Hospital.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.—An Infant Welfare Centre was re-opened in Howden in January, 1938, and has been very well attended. It is very satisfactory that the advantages of the Centre are being well appreciated.

NURSING IN THE HOME.—During the year 1936, the Midwives' Act came into operation, and Midwives were appointed to attend cases in different Districts, so that a Maternity Nurse is available for any case within the Howden Rural Area. This is a great improvement, of which full advantage should be taken.

HOSPITALS.—In Howden Town a Public Assistance Institution for the sick poor, and an Isolation Hospital with 30 beds for Infectious Diseases. Shipton Hospital is available for Small Pox cases.

TUBERCULOSIS.—There is a Sanatorium at Raywell, and a Tuberculosis Clinic at Selby, available for the Rural Area. There is also a Clinic at Goole.

During the year 13 cases of Tuberculosis were notified.

There were 12 cases of Tuberculosis of Lung, and 1 case affecting other Regions.

VENEREAL DISEASE.—Fortunately, we have not had the increase in Venereal Diseases which has been noticed throughout the country.

The nearest Venereal Centre for the District is at Goole Hospital, where Patients should report on Fridays. 5 p.m. for Women, and 8 p.m. for Men.

VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS.—Goole, Selby, York, Hull, and Leeds. There is no Ambulance available for the conveyance of patients to any hospital, except the Goole Bartholomew Hospital ambulance, which is available for patients admitted to that Institution. The A.R.P. ambulance may be used if no other is available.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year the following Notifications of Infectious Diseases were received :—

	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940
Scarlet Fever ...	23	32	20	21	48	32
Diphtheria ...	0	2	4	23	9	38
Whooping Cough ...	73	100	60	65	46	14
Erysipelas ...	2	3	6	9	4	2
Measles ...	207	20	227	171	106	245
Pneumonia ...	9	9	19	10	16	38
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	2	0	0	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	0	0	0	0	0

SCHOOLS.

All Schools are under the County Council, with the exception of one small Private School in Howden. Reports are sent by the Head Teacher to the Medical Officer of Health of absentees from School suffering from Infective Sickness.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. WIGGLESWORTH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor

For the Year, 1945.

1, St. John Street,

Howden.

To the Chairman and Members of the Howden
Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your information and consideration a brief Report concerning the Sanitary Administration of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1945. No specific details regarding this work have been given during the war years, as Annual Reports were restricted in accordance with instructions of the Ministry of Health, although matters of vital importance have been included in the Annual Report of your Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSING.

The Council approved the erection of Houses in their programme for first and second year, as follows :—

No. of Houses.			No. of Houses.		
Bubwith	...	10	Asselby	...	4
Eastrington	...	8	Barmby	...	6
Gilberdyke	...	8	Blacktoft	...	6
Holme	...	8	Ellerton	...	4
Howden	...	12	Foggathorpe	...	6
Laxton	...	8	Hotham	...	6
Newport	...	10	Kilpin	...	8
North Cave	...	8	Spaldington	...	4
Broomfleet	...	4	Wressle	...	4

OVERCROWDING.

During the war years there was a fairly considerable amount of overcrowding due to evacuation, caused more by the unofficial than official evacuation. Since the end of the war the position has eased very considerably, but bad cases of overcrowding should receive prior consideration when Council Houses are available. It is a well-known fact that overcrowding is one of the chief pre-disposing causes of Tuberculosis.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The general low level of the district makes the problem of drainage one of peculiar difficulty, the gradients everywhere being very low. The majority of drains discharge into open water-courses, ditches, brick ponds, and at Newport into the Canal. It is pleasing to record that your Council instructed your Consulting Engineer to get out preliminary plans for Sewage Disposal in all the villages and hamlets.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Prior to this year scavenging by contract was carried out only at Howden, Kilpin and Newport, but a scheme of refuse collection has been inaugurated for the whole District. This scheme has given considerable satisfaction to the general public, who much appreciate this service. The frequent removal of excrement and refuse is in the best interests of Public Health. Tipping presents some difficulties, and is a problem which must be carefully watched.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER.

The milk produced in the area is collected and taken to the large towns, and also to a Milk Factory at Holme-on-Spalding Moor. There is too much time lag between production and delivery to the towns, and there is much that is unsatisfactory in collection and distribution, but the difficulty has doubtless been one of transport.

Some improvements to cowsheds have been carried out in recent years, about a dozen premises being improved during the year under review.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

A number of inspections were made of food premises and foodstuffs during the year, and small quantities of food were condemned. During the war there has been no slaughtering of animals for sale for human consumption carried out in the District, Centralised slaughtering being carried out at Goole under the control of the Ministry of Food, as with rationing, no other system was possible. When conditions return to normal, it is hoped that it may be possible to slaughter again locally. Centralised slaughtering may have some of the advantages claimed for it, but it involves too much handling of the meat before it reaches the consumer.

RURAL (WORKERS) ACTS.

Very little work has been carried out under these Acts, as directly this work was started Mr. Meredith, Additional Sanitary Inspector, left the service of the Council, and the Ministry of Health declined to allow your Council to fill the vacancy owing to shortage of qualified Officers. Towards the end of the year the Ministry agreed to your proposal to fill the vacancy. Over a period of years I had called attention to the need for an adequate staff, and it was to me a matter for regret that the Ministry could not at the time approve an appointment. Without either qualified or clerical assistance the work has been very onerous, and was particularly so during the war years.

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING.

The issue of Building Licences for work carried out at a cost exceeding £10 involved a considerable amount of work. From August to the end of the year 101 licences were issued with necessary Certificates to purchase certain materials where necessary.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919. INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

At the request of the County Council, your Council accepted delegation under the Act of 1919, and although you have no special staff for the work, any major infestation brought to notice has been dealt with. The War Agricultural Committee deal with farm premises, and the Local Authority is supposed to deal with the other infestations; as there are farms in all villages, one wonders when the line of demarcation can be drawn. The whole matter is very confusing, and to express a personal opinion, Rodent Control under one Authority would achieve better results.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year quite a number of connections have been made to the Council's mains, particularly for agricultural purposes. The area is well served, as the water supply is available to about 90% of the inhabitants. The consumption of water for the year was approximately 136 million gallons.

HOUSING (GENERAL OBSERVATIONS).

There has been a considerable deterioration of cottage property during the war years, owing to the shortage of labour and materials, and the position is becoming serious. Unless labour and material is available to arrest further deterioration it will mean condemnation of property earlier than would otherwise have been the case. Some parts of the District are still without a supply of Electricity, and this has caused your Council some concern, but here the difficulty is again labour and materials. If the pre-war exodus from the country to the towns is to be arrested, then active steps must be taken to secure the provision of houses with more or less Urban amenities for all Rural Workers.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

KENNETH MONTGOMERY,

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

